

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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TAGS: EEWT, TU, AL, HU, CU
SUBJ: RECENT TURKISH ECONOMIC CONTACTS WITH HUNGARY, CUBA
AND ALBANIA

1. EVIDENTLY PART OF CONTINUING TURKISH EFFORTS TO CATCH UP
WITH, AND POSSIBLY SURPASS, ITS WESTERN ALLIES IN ESTABLISHING
DETENTE AT LEAST IN TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH
THE FULL SPECTRUM OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIESSEVERAL OFFICIAL
CONTACTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE LAST FEW DAYS WITH HUNGARY,
CUBA AND ALBANIA.

2. MINISTER OF INDUSTRY ORHAN ALP ON HIS RETURN FROM BUDAPEST,
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WHERE HE ATTENDED A MAY 23-26 MEETING OF THE TURKISH-HUNGARIAN
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT EXPORTS
TO HUNGARY WILL BE STEADILY INCREASING IN FUTURE YEARS, AND
WILL INCLUDE COTTON YARN, TEXTILES, LEATHERWARE, CERAMICS,
CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL, CEREALS, CITRUS FRUITS, JUICES, TOBACCO,
LENTILS, CHICKPEAS, BEANS, TEA AND COTTON.

MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURE AND MARKETING OF MACHINERY, ELECTRONICS PRODUCTS, CHEMICALS, PHARMACEUTICALS AND FOOD PRODUCTS IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. HUNGARY WILL ALSO COOPERATE WITH TURKEY IN THE PROCESSING OF TURKEY'S DEPOSITS OF PERLITE, AND IN QUALITY CONTROL IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, AGRICULTURE AND FISH FARMING.

3. IN EARLY JUNE, MINISTER OF COMMERCE TEOMAN KOPRULULER COMMENTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT OF CUBAN AMBASSADOR JOSE M. ALVAREZ, ACCREDITED TO TURKEY BUT RESIDENT IN SOFIA, THAT TURKISH TRADE WITH CUBA HAS NOT BEEN DEVELOPED FULLY AND THAT TURKEY NOW WISHES TO ESTABLISH CLOSER TURKISH-CUBAN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. TO THIS END, THE MINISTER SAID AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN HIM AND CUBAN AMBASSADOR ON THE VISIT AT AN UNSPECIFIED DATE IN THE FUTURE OF A CUBAN TRADE DELEGATION TO TURKEY.

4. FINALLY, ON JUNE 2 A TRADE PROTOCOL WITH ALBANIA WAS CONCLUDED IN ANKARA COVERING THE PERIOD 1978-79 AND CALLING FOR AN ANNUAL TRADE VOLUME BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES OF \$18 MILLION, MORE THAN TWICE LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OF \$8 MILLION. THE NUMBER OF GOODS TO BE EXCHANGED WAS ALSO INCREASED, WITH TURKEY TO IMPORT PETROLEUM BITUMEN, COPPER WIRE AND BARS, COAL, PIRITES, SULPHUR, PVC GRANULES, AND ELECTRIC ENERGY. TURKEY WILL DELIVER IN RETURN FIRE BRICKS, COTTON, INSECTICIDES, TEA, PHARMACEUTICALS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BARLEY, STEEL PIPE, POLYESTER AND ACRYLIC FIBERS AND YAR, WATER PUMPS, ALUMINUM PLATE, GALVANIZED STEEL WIRE AND MANGANESE ORE. THE PROTOCOL APPARENTLY REPLACES THE EXISTING TURKISH-ALBANIAN CLEARING AGREEMENT FIRST CONCLUDED IN 1968. (TURKEY NOW HAS A CLEARING AGREEMENT ONLY WITH THE USSR.) THE ALBANIAN DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER NEZA FER AHMATI, AND THE TURKISH SIDE BY MINISTER OF COMMERCE TEOMAN KOPRULULER. THE LATTER IS QUOTED AT THE CLOSE OF NEGOTIATIONS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD ALWAYS HAD FRIENDLY RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY DURING THE TERM OF ENVER HODJA, AND THAT ALBANIA HAD ALWAYS SUPPORTED TURKEY IN THE CYPRUS AFFAIR.

5. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THESE CONTACTS MAY BE OF SECONDARY SIGNIFICANCE TO TURKEY'S CURRENT POLICY OF RELATIVE EVEN-HANDEDNESS IN EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS, THEY DO REPRESENT INCREMENTS TO THE SUM TOTAL OF THOSE EFFORTS. IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT TANGIBLE RESULTS ARE LIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED IN THE NEAR FUTURE BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF FULL COMPATIBILITY OF THE TURKISH TRADING SYSTEM WITH THE STATE SYSTEMS OF THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, AND TURKEY'S INEFFICIENCY IN MARKETING EXPORTS UNDER ANY SYSTEM.

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